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Federal Communications Commission
Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

August 10, 2011

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

RE: WT Docket No. 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

On behalf of the 132,000 members of the Illinois Education Association, I am writing to offer our enthusiastic support for the proposed merger between T-Mobile and AT&T Wireless.

As an affiliate of the National Education Association, the IEA has been working and advocating for over 150 years to make good public schools even better. Meeting that goal has always required committed teachers working closely with parents and local communities. Today that goal also requires access to broadband technology. By that, I don't mean limited access via shared computers in school libraries or community centers. Making use of the current power and future potential of broadband as a teaching and learning tool requires widespread access to high-speed broadband in every home and classroom. The wireless broadband technology promised by AT&T Wireless as a condition of the merger would provide exactly that kind of access.

I'm sure the FCC can approve this merger while taking any precautions you feel necessary. We hope that you will join us in support of the merger not for our own benefit, but for the welfare of Illinois schoolchildren.

Sincerely,



Cinda Klickna, President
Illinois Education Association-NEA

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